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Draft report

Addendum

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Programme questions (item 4 (b))

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001

Programme 13. International drug control

1. At its 24th and 25th meetings, on 17 and 18 August 1998, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998–2001. It had before it the proposal in respect of programme 13, International drug control.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the report of the Secretary-General and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the report.

Discussion

3. The proposed revisions were generally supported. It was considered that the revisions reflected in a well-balanced manner the new and expanded mandates adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session. The view was expressed that the United Nations Drug Control Programme should develop specific guidelines aimed at assisting developing countries in the implementation of the decisions adopted by the General Assembly at the special session.

4. The view was also expressed that there was a potential risk of globalization of the drug phenomenon and that civil society and non-governmental organizations could play a greater role in combating drug abuse.

5. Views were expressed in support of a balanced approach to the prevention and reduction of drug abuse, with demand reduction and supply reduction now constituting equal

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sides of the drug control efforts. The general principles underlying regional cooperation, objectives related to amphetamine-type stimulants and to prevention and reduction of drug abuse, particularly among youth, the elaborations made on information and technology, and the focus on the United Nations Drug Control Programme as the centre of expertise proposed in the revisions were supported.

6. The view was also expressed that the organizational structure of the Programme should adequately correspond to the new and expanded task to be implemented, as decided by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session.

7. The view was also expressed that responsibilities of the consumer countries for prevention and reduction of drug abuse and their obligations for funding the drugs supply reduction should have been reflected in the revisions. A view was further expressed about the responsibility of suppliers of technologies and components for the processing of drugs. Views were also expressed that the revisions should have put more emphasis on such high-risk groups as young people and children and highlight the responsibilities of the general education system and family in the prevention of drug abuse. In this context, attention was drawn to the advantages and disadvantages of the use of modern communication technologies, in particular the Internet.

8. Views were expressed that technical assistance in monitoring illicit cultivation should be provided at the request of Governments to enable them to monitor illicit cultivation in their countries. A view was also expressed that reference should be made in the revisions to illicit cultivation in greenhouses. Views were also expressed that the use of advanced technologies, such as satellite systems for collecting information on illicit cultivation, should be reviewed by the United Nations Drug Control Programme, in close consultation with Member States, prior to any steps taken in that direction.

9. A view was expressed that the objectives mentioned in subparagraph 13.8 (d) should not be limited to the field of precursors. In the light of the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, the United Nations should collect information on policies implemented by Member States and analyse the conclusions resulting from the implementation of national strategies. This objective implies the strengthening of the missions and means of action of the International Narcotics Control Board.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. In relation to subprogramme 13.4, paragraph 13.10 (a), the Committee took note that the collection of data through technologies, such as satellite systems for collecting information on illicit drug cultivation was under consideration by the appropriate organs of the United Nations.

11. The Committee recommended approval of the revisions to programme 13 of the medium-term plan, subject to the following modifications:

(a) In the second sentence of paragraph 13.7 (c), *insert* civil *before* society

(b) In the second sentence of paragraph 13.9 (a), *insert* quantitative and qualitative *before* key

(c) Paragraph 13.10 (a),

(i) In the first sentence, *after* cultivation *insert* including production in enclosed premises,

(ii) In the last sentence,

a. *After* provided *insert* at the request of Governments

b. *After* cultivation *insert* in their respective territories

Legislative mandates

Add reference to General Assembly resolution 52/92 of 12 December 1997